

## Jim Creek Recreation Area Offers Wilderness Adventure

By Ingrid Mueller and Steve Buckley, Navy MWR Communications Group

ARLINGTON, Wash. -- Tucked in the foothills of the North Cascade Mountains just outside of Arlington, Wash., lies the Naval Radio Station Jim Creek Recreation Area, with some 5,000 mostly untamed acres of land that offer an unforgettable wilderness experience and many of the comforts of home. It's clearly one of the Navy's best-kept secrets.

"Washington State is just incredibly beautiful and Jim Creek is the tip of the iceberg," said Dave Hymer, Jim Creek Recreation Area site manager.

"Military retirees will love the many recreational opportunities in this area and the variety of lodging choices they'll find at Jim Creek."

The Navy Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) managed facility offers affordable rates and several options for overnight and extended stays, including:

- 16 RV sites, 12 with electricity and water, four with full hook-ups.
- Bobcat Den, a rustic, two-bedroom unit that accommodates five people, has its own kitchen, restroom, log furniture and a large living room.
- Bear Den, similar to an efficiency unit, sleeps four people in one bedroom, and has a small kitchen and private restroom.
- The Jim Creek Lodge offers 11 rooms and sleeps up to 50 people. A commercially equipped kitchen contains all the pots, pans and dishes necessary to feed a group of 50.
- Eighteen cabins, six that sleep four people and 12 that sleep six.
- More than 25 tent sites.

"The group facilities are ideal for retreats and reunions," said Hymer. "In addition, we offer a wide variety of outdoor recreational opportunities throughout the year, including camping, fishing, boating, team building programs, weekend and seasonal activities. This is the ideal setting for guests of all ages."

Special programs offered at Jim Creek include fly fishing, interpretive hikes, bird watching and family oriented seasonal events, such as ice cream socials,

outdoor movies, and Halloween, Christmas and Valentine's Day programs, to name a few.

"I don't believe that we can over-serve any of our customers," said Hymer. "Our full-time staff, as well the retirees who serve as RV campground hosts, know how important it is to take care of our visitors. I have empowered my staff to ensure customers have a good stay."

"The staff at Jim Creek is exceptional," wrote Charlotte and Gregg Deloki in letter following their visit. "They were informative, not only of what Jim Creek offers, but of what the surrounding area offers as well. They were also very warm and friendly."

Snacks, beverages, souvenirs, camp supplies, fishing supplies, ice and wood are available for purchase at the camp store. Equipment that can be rented includes mountain bikes, softball and other sporting gear. Camping supplies that are available for rental include tents, sleeping bags and canopies.

Jim Creek's Twin Lakes are one of the few locations in the northwest where year 'round fishing is possible. Each lake offers about 35 acres of natural fresh water trout fishing and provides a pristine habitat for wildlife, including beavers, deer, river otters, waterfowl and bald eagles. Rowboats, kayaks, canoes and fishing gear can also be rented there.

The primary mission of Naval Radio Station Jim Creek is to provide radio-transmitting capabilities for the Pacific submarine fleet. The Jim Creek Wilderness Area has been designated for recreational use by authorized MWR patrons, including military personnel and their family members, military retirees and DoD civilians.

For more information on the Jim Creek Wilderness Area, visit <http://www.navylifepnw.com/navylife/rec/jcreek/> or call (888) 463-6697.